

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 872 - SB 996

March 25, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires, by June 30, 2022, the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board (TECB) to establish certain model standards for all emergency communications districts (ECDs). Requires, by June 30, 2027, certain ECDs to implement such standards. Requires 911 user surcharge fees to be withheld from ECDs found in noncompliance.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent current emergency communications district (ECD) staff are compensated by a separate local government entity, there will be an equal, corresponding shift in expenditures between such local government entity and the ECD. For any instance where additional staff is required, it is reasonably estimated to result in a mandatory, recurring increase in local expenditures for the ECD exceeding \$25,000 per instance.*

The extent and timing of any mandatory increase in local expenditures associated with infrastructure investment cannot reasonably be determined prior to the establishment of the uniform operating standards by the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board.*

Assumptions:

- The TECB will establish model standards at a regularly scheduled meeting of the TECB; therefore, any increase in state expenditures is estimated to be not significant.
- The proposed language:
 - Requires standards adopted by the TECB to include (1) uniform dispatching requirements and standards, and (2) require all ECDs to be staffed by ECD-paid employees or contract workers;
 - Requires the TECB to withhold 25 percent of 911 user surcharge fees until ECDs comply fully with such standards; and
 - Applies to all ECDs except those located in Shelby, Davidson, Knox, and Hamilton Counties.
- This analysis assumes:
 - ECDs may require infrastructure investments depending on dispatching requirements established by the uniform operating standards of the TECB; and

- ECDs will comply with the uniform operating standards in order to avoid the withholding of 911 user surcharge fees.
- Based on information previously provided by local sources, current staffing scenarios vary statewide as interlocal agreements between ECDs and local governments vary. It is reasonably assumed that the proposed language will result in an equal, corresponding shift in expenditures between the local government entity currently compensating such staff to the applicable ECD. The net impact to local government for this shift is considered not significant; however, for any instance in which additional staff must be hired, it is reasonably estimated to exceed \$25,000 per instance.
- The extent and timing of any mandatory increase in local expenditures associated with infrastructure investment cannot reasonably be determined.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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